NATIONAL INTERAGENCY FIRE CENTER

3833 South Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705

9216 NFES (FA240)

March 21, 2005

NATIONAL FIRE EQUIPMENT SYSTEM
CACHE MEMORANDUM NO. 05-2

To: NFES: National Incident Support Caches

From: Paul Naman, NFES Representative - NIFC

Subject: Defective 3000 lb. Sling Swivels, NFES #0526, NSN #1670-01-029-8555

Background: During restocking of helicopter kits at the Ontario Fire Cache, several new 3000 lb. swivels were found to be frozen, meaning the hook would not turn. An investigation was started and the manufacturer was contacted. The problem is a latent defect caused by the assembly process. A method of inspection has been developed to identify the problem sling swivels and is described below.

Identifying the Product: Figure 1 shows the only known style of suspect swivels. The only manufacturer is Esmet, Inc. The date of manufacture for all discovered so far carry a date code of "9 03". The date stamp is located just below the manufacturer's name and the load rating on the silver colored swivel assembly. The manufacturer has stated that this style of sling swivel (figure 1) may have production dates as early as October, 2002 (marked "10 02").

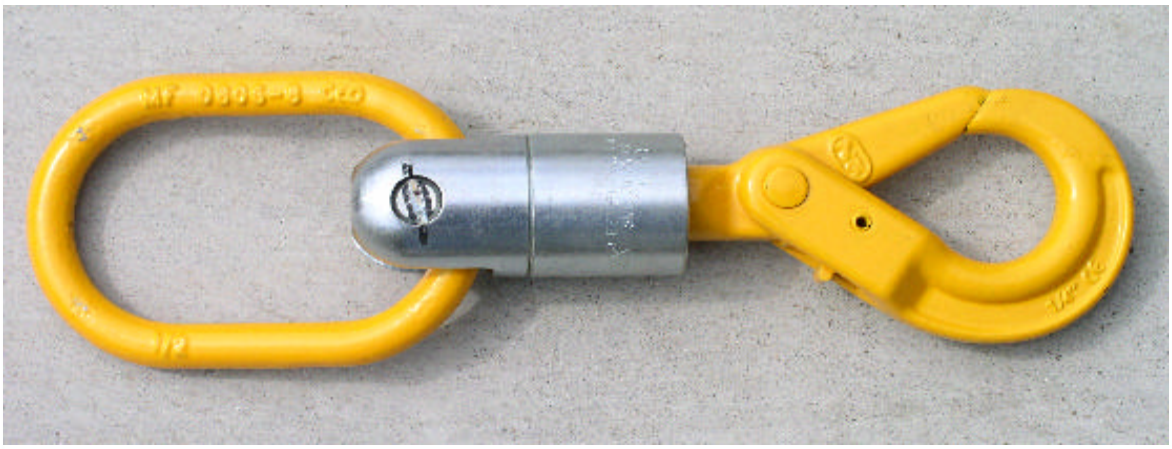

Figure 1, Esmet, Inc. 3000 lb. Swivel

3000 Lb. Cargo Swivel Inspection: Grasp the swivel body in one hand. Using the thumb and forefingers of the other hand attempt to turn the hook (see figure 2). If the hook does not turn at all under finger pressure, the swivel has the problem and must be set aside for return to the vendor. If the hook turns under finger pressure but has locations of "binding" during the revolution, the swivel is acceptable for returning to stock/supply.

Figure 2, Finger Turning Test

Once you have determined the bearing is frozen do not attempt to break it free. Several swivels were found frozen and the inspector continued to work at twisting the hook which resulted in freeing of the bearing. This results in the inability to confirm the problem by the manufacturer when they receive it.

If lateral movement of the hook is found during inspection of the 3,000 lb. swivels, this does not affect serviceability and they may be returned to stock. Lateral movement is a side to side "swinging" movement of the hook under finger pressure, as shown in figure 3.

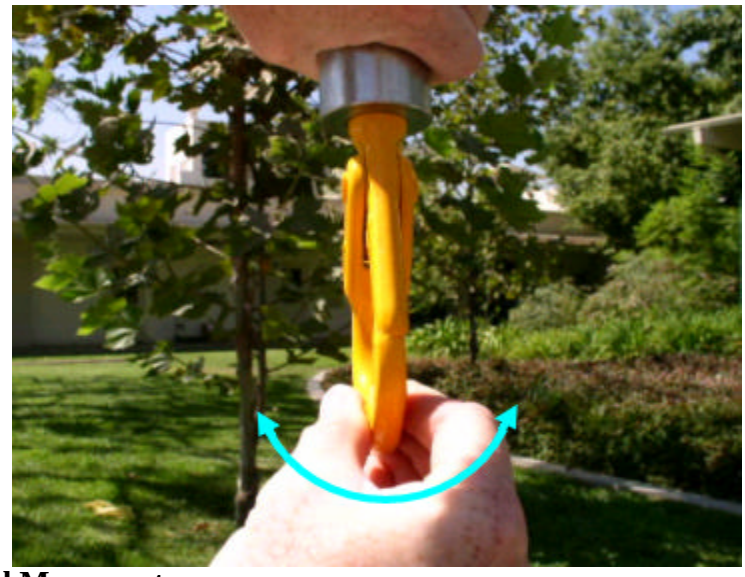

Figure 3, Lateral Movement

Reporting/Replacement Process: Defective sling swivels should be returned to GSA for replacement without charge. GSA will also assume all associated shipping costs. Owners of defective Esmet, Inc. manufactured sling swivels should contact Robert Regan, GSA National Customer Service Center, at 1-800-525-8027 (select "option 2") for specific disposition/shipping instructions. Returns on defective sling swivels will be accepted for free replacement only until September 1, 2005.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this information please contact Carl Bambarger, San Dimas Technology Development Center at (909) 599-1267, ext. #253, or Ray Balli, GSA Fire Program at (817) 978-8637.

/s/ Paul E Naman

cc:
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